



COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

"Representing the interests of Colorado's beef industry since 1867"

Reintroduction of Black-Footed Ferrets Where a Landowner Consents Pursuant to a Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement

Agriculture landowners realize firsthand that the current applications of the Endangered Species Act are not meeting the needs of species or capitalizing on the abilities for conservation through agriculture landowners. Agriculture landowners have a real desire for significant increases in performance-based conservation through assurances, incentives and flexible implementation.

Colorado landowners have interest in a newly-created Fish and Wildlife Service's Black-Footed Ferret (BFF) Recovery Program designed by agencies in partnership with agriculture landowners. This program offers regulatory assurances through a programmatic safe harbor agreement and incentives by way of prairie dog (ferret food source) perimeter control and financial incentives. The members of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) see this program as paving the way toward species conservation, previous to ESA listing, in a way that does not punish landowners or the species in question; but rather prioritizes voluntary performance-based species conservation through the efforts of agriculture landowners.

BFF Recovery Program Incentives

- Allow grazing over BFF Program-enrolled acres
- Financial compensation for enrolled acres
- Prairie dog perimeter control to stop expansion of prairie dogs beyond enrolled acres
- Plague vaccination of prairie dogs to secure enrolled acres

Supporters

- Colorado Cattlemen's Association
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- Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife
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Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement

- Program participation is voluntary
- Adjoining landowners are protected through assurances in the BFF Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement for incidental take and removal of BFF's. Protected against any additional land use limitations
- Incidental take of BFF are allowed
- Assurances that additional land use limitations will NOT be required
- Landowners may return to agreed-upon baseline of BFF's at any time. In Colorado, BFF baseline on private lands is zero.

Resources

www.blackfootedferret.org See Draft Safe Harbor Agreement link